

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01
DOE-11 SOE-02 /125 W

-----092750 310543Z /15

R 302014Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5002

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02876

PASS STR AND TREASURY ELECTRONICALLY

USEEC

USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA, EEC, FR

SUBJ: JAPAN -- FRENCH VIEWS

REFS: A. STATE 023517; B. PARIS 00508

1. USHIBA VISITED PARIS JANUARY 29-30 WHERE HE
ATTENDED A WORKING DINNER GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER
DE GUIRINGAUD AND A MEETING WITH A GROUP LED BY PRIME
MINISTER BARRE. WE DO NOT YET HAVE ANY DETAILED
READ-OUT ON THE MEETINGS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO
FORMAL COMMUNIQUE IS TO BE ISSUED. FROMENT-MEURICE,
DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC MINISTER
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JUST AFTER MEETINGS ENDED, HOWEVER, THAT FRANCE HAD
LAID IT ON THE LINE WITH USHIBA. THE FRENCH SIDE HAD
MADE CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECT JAPAN TO BE FORTHCOMING
VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNITY IN FUTURE TALKS. HE INDICATED
THAT THE EC COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE A MANDATE
FOR SUCH TALKS ON FEBRUARY 7.

2. FROMENT-MEURICE IMPLIED THAT USHIBA'S APPROACH WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS TO ARGUE (A) THAT JAPAN HAD GIVEN ABOUT ALL THAT IT CAN GIVE IN THE STRAUSS-USHLBA TALKS AND (B) THAT MOST OF THE COMMITMENTS MADE BY JAPAN ARE GLOBAL AND THEREFORE WILL ALSO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR COMMENTS PER PREVIOUS GUIDANCE, FROMENT-MEURICE RECOGNIZED THAT THE U.S. HAD INDEED OBTAINED THINGS FROM JAPAN THAT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE -- IF THE JAPANESE IN FACT LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE FACT THAT THE U.S. DID NOT SEEK PREFERENTIAL ADVANTAGES. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF WESTERN EUROPE'S "POLITICAL PROBLEM." THE JAPANESE MUST BE SEEN PUBLICLY TO BE AS FORTHCOMING FOR THE COMMUNITY AS IT HAS BEEN FOR THE U.S. THIS IS PARTLY A PRESENTATIONAL MATTER BUT IT WILL ALSO INVOLVE SOME SUBSTANCE. HE GAVE NO DETAILS.

4. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION WE DREW ON THE GUIDANCE IN REFTEL A TO EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACT IN CONCERT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO PRESSURE JAPAN, AND WHY WE BELIEVE THAT PARALLEL EFFORTS AND INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH THE EUROPEANS ARE INDICATED AT PRESENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF THE SEVEN PERCENT GROWTH TARGET, FROMENT-MEURICE INDICATED THAT HE SHARES THE WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM THAT JAPAN WILL REACH THIS FIGURE. HE IMPLIED, THEREFORE, THAT FRANCE IS NOT SEEKING A JAPANESE COMMITMENT TO A HIGHER FIGURE. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC GROWTH, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS02876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0592
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978018/aaaaagay.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27a1eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 23517, 78 PARIS 508
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3798608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN -- FRENCH VIEWS
TAGS: ETRD, JA, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27a1eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014